

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. *(Canceled)*

2. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming units that form images;

a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively;

a controller that has a first mode in which said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units, and a second mode in which ~~at least~~ one of said plurality of scanners is driven to carry out image formation by ~~at least~~ one of said image forming units, said controller causing, in the case where the image formation in the second mode is switched to the image formation in the first mode, while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode, all the scanners not being used for the image formation in the second mode to start preparation for the image formation in the first mode to be driven and then switching the image formation to the first mode after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

3. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

4. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller starts a preparation for applying high voltage to ~~at least~~ the one of said image forming units ~~that is not being used for~~ while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode.

5. *(Canceled)*

6. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said controller synchronizes said plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

7-8. (*Canceled*)

9. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units that form images, and a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively, wherein said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units in a first mode and ~~at least~~ one of said plurality of scanners is driven to carry out image formation by ~~at least~~ one of said image forming units in a second mode, the method comprising the steps of:

~~a control step of causing, in the case where the image formation in the second mode is switched to the image formation in the first mode, while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode, all the scanners not being used for the image formation in the second mode to start preparation for the image formation in the first mode~~ to be driven; and

switching the image formation to the first mode after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

10. (*Previously Presented*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

11. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~said control step comprises starting~~ a preparation for applying high voltage to ~~at least the one of the image forming units that is not being used for~~ is started while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode.

12. (*Canceled*)

13. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~said~~ the control step comprises synchronizing the plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

14. (*Canceled*)